



# DESTINATION DOWNTOWN RIDE

Sponsored by Downtown Vancouver BIA

7 KM ONE WAY  
45 MIN - 1.5 HOURS

## ABOUT THE ROUTE

Sometimes between all the shopping and the working we can forget that Downtown Vancouver is full of incredible public spaces, artwork and history!

This self-guided tour is sponsored by the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA), which supports, promotes and represents the shared interests of thousands of businesses and property owners in Vancouver’s downtown core (where the majority of this tour takes place).

This ride, which will take you on a journey through the vibrant and diverse neighbourhoods in Downtown Vancouver, will highlight some really cool public art initiatives and beautiful spaces and will also provide plenty of opportunities to grab a bite to eat or check out the many funky businesses along the way.

Share your journey with us: tag us in your photos and social-media posts using **#VanBiennale** and **#DowntownVan!**

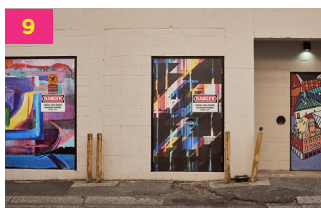
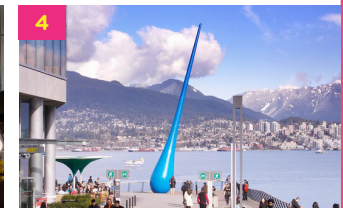
### Bike Ride Safety

- Use bike lights and wear a helmet.
- Use designated bike lanes and routes
- Ride at a leisurely pace and yield to people walking.
- When passing, ring your bell or yell “ON UR LEFT”

*\*Follow rules of the road. The Motor Vehicle Act and city by-laws apply to cyclists.\**

## ROUTE STOPS

1	<b>WALKING FIGURES   MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ</b>	Cambie at Broadway
2	<b>SLOW   ZHANG HUAN</b>	39 Smithe St
3	<b>BEYOND THE SEA, AGAINST THE SUN   MARTIN BOYCE</b>	510 W Georgia
4	<b>THE DROP   INGES IDEE</b>	1055 Canada Pl.
5	<b>LIGHTSHED   LIZ MAGOR</b>	1199 W Cordova St.
6	<b>NEED   KAMBIZ SHARIF</b>	<b>Intersection of Melville, Pender, Jervis St.</b>
7	<b>JASPER   JOHN CLEMENT</b>	<b>Robson and Jervis St.</b>
8	<b>EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR</b>	Between Robson and Alberni (Enter on Burrard)
9	<b>ROBSON SQUARE</b>	800 Robson St.
10	<b>VANCOUVER ART GALLERY</b>	750 Hornby St.
11	<b>COMMUNITY SPIRIT - RAFAEL MAYANI</b>	701 W Georgia St.





**#1 - WALKING FIGURES - MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ**

***Walking Figures***

**Magdalena Abakanowicz**

**2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

**2014 - 2016 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

*Walking Figures* is a group of headless, cast-iron figures by Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz. They appear to be walking aimlessly without sight, and the sombre tone makes reference to both time and loss. A larger group of figures, cast simultaneously in the artist's studio, is titled *Agora* and is on permanent display in Chicago's Grant Park. An agora was a meeting place in ancient Greece where the concept of democracy began. With no citizen above the law, everyone had the power to vote in this unbiased way of life.

This sculpture is a Legacy Artwork from the 2005-2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition.

One thing we love about these sculptures is the incredible view they have of Downtown Vancouver and the mountains beyond! Can you capture this view in a photo? How about a selfie with your favourite Abakanowicz sculpture? Share it with us on social media using #VanBiennale!

**WATCH:** [https://youtu.be/qLq1Rw\\_cAXo](https://youtu.be/qLq1Rw_cAXo)



**#2 - SLOW | ZHANG HUANG**

***Slow***

**Zhang Huan**

**2017**

The artwork is inspired from the saying that soft fire makes sweet melt. High-quality artworks come from slow, but meticulous creations: that is the essence of the sculpture.

The mother panda and the baby panda stroll idly, expressing deep love and intimacy through their charmingly naïve figures. It is the artist's wish that people can slow down their paces and balance their life, cherish precious emotions, and appreciate confidence and hope.

What are some aspects of your life that you want to slow down?



### #3 - BEYOND THE SEA, AGAINST THE SUN - MARTIN BOYCE

*Beyond the Sea, Against the Sun*  
Martin Boyce  
2016

Beyond the Sea, Against the Sun consists of three continuous chains of hanging lanterns that converge at the point where the Richards Street lane meets the alleyway running from Robson Street to Georgia Street. Though their form is sculptural, the lanterns' state of partial collapse evokes an air of incompleteness in deep contrast to their urban environment. They are not resolved in the way architecture requires, but, instead, hover with a sense of openness. Scaled up and clustered in colourful constellations, their presence heightens the dramatic possibilities of the site while making and activating the space below them.

There are many alleyways and lanes throughout Vancouver. What kind of art would you put in them to bring them to life?



### #4 - THE DROP - INGES IDEE

*The Drop*  
Inges Idee  
2009

The artwork depicts a raindrop, captured descending and in its moment of contact.

According to Inges Idee, a group of four German artists, the artwork is “homage to the power of nature” and represents “the relationship and outlook towards the water that surrounds us.”

The Drop has been noted to have a playful relationship with viewers and serves as a “big inside joke” to Vancouver residents. Can you think of why? (Clue: it has to do with our weather.)



**#5 - LIGHTSHED - LIZ MAGOR**

*LightShed*  
Liz Magor  
2004

Located on the downtown seawall near the Coal Harbour Community Centre and facing Stanley Park, this artwork is based on the old boat sheds that used to line the shoreline. The artist cast a half-scale model in aluminum and coated it with luminescent paint. Perched on top of cast pilings, the artwork emanates nocturnally a slow glow from the inside. Grosvenor, an international property group, commissioned this work by Liz Magor as a gift to the city. The artwork was cast in the Harman Foundry in Robert's Creek, operated by Stephen Harmon, son of artist Jack Harman.

Can you imagine what Coal Harbour used to look like many years ago? As a building, *LightShed* resembles the early fishing and shipping industry buildings that existed along the harbourfront when Vancouver was coming into its own as a city.



**#6- NEED - KAMBIZ SHARIF**

*Need*  
Kambiz Sharif  
Current Vancouver Biennale exhibition

*Need* by Iranian-Canadian artist Kambiz Sharif is a summation of his experience as a new immigrant, a life based on re-imagining oneself in a new place. The idea for the sculpture came to Sharif during his first year in Canada in 2009.

Despite its apparent abstraction, this shape carries deep personal meaning. It reaches upwards with an expression of need and gratitude and the potential of reciprocity, like three outstretched fingers or a seedling pushing upwards. Its core contains the untold desires held by all new immigrants and the continuous re-imagining of one's home in this new place.

*Need* marks a junction where the converging streets lead the flow of traffic to vastly different neighbourhoods of the city. At these crossroads, the sculpture's reflective surface makes it come into view like a mirage, or a flash of recognition of shared experience in a stranger's eyes.

What is your experience of displacement or rootedness? What shape does it take? Where do your roads cross? Let us know your thoughts by tagging your photo with #VanBiennale.

**WATCH:** [https://youtu.be/6\\_OPrTCTYT0](https://youtu.be/6_OPrTCTYT0)



## #7 - JASPER - JOHN CLEMENT

*Jasper*  
John Clement  
2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

*Jasper* is a whimsical sculpture by Brooklyn-based artist John Clement. His trademark steel spirals with bold primary colours invite children to touch and play. The turns and loops of *Jasper* challenge the inherent properties of rigid tubular steel, and the result is an implied movement with the sense of twisting right out of the ground. This sculpture is a Legacy Artwork from the 2005-2007 Vancouver Biennale.

*"Each work is informed by the lineage of pieces, mine as well as others, that came before. All I can ask is that my process continues, further expanding my understanding of my own voice, and of the simplicity and beauty that lie in the three-dimensional composition of line and form that is sculpture."*

- John Clement

What do the shapes and forms of *Jasper* make you think of? Let us know by using #VanBiennale in your photos and social-media stories.



## #8 - EIHU LANE CANVAS CORRIDOR - VARIOUS ARTISTS

*Canvas Corridor*  
Various (information is noted beside the artwork)  
2019

Watch out for artworks on various doorways and garage entrances!

The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) and Robson Street Business Association (RSBA) teamed up in 2019 to invigorate Eihu Lane bordering Robson Street with a series of 45 doorway murals by local artists. In collaboration with Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Mural Festival, 27 artists were chosen to bring the laneway to life and create a vibrant and accessible art walk for all to enjoy.



## #9 - ROBSON SQUARE

This vibrant and lively public space in the middle of Vancouver attracts all manner of artists, performers, and protests. You are sure to see something exciting! Why not take a look at the public art installed around the square including *Spring* by Alan Chung Hung and *Primary No. 9* by Michael Banwell?

It is suggested you end your cycle ride in Robson Square and walk your bike to the next two nearby stops.



## #10 - VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

In 1975, the Provincial government proposed a municipal center building in the heart of Vancouver. The proposal included a tower that was over 200 meters (682 ft) tall. Opponents worried that the tower would cast a “dark shadow” over the heart of the city, and interrupt the skyline that was, until then, preserved.

Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) worked to secure an alternate proposal from legendary architect Arthur Erickson. When Erickson described the project, he said:

*“This won’t be a corporate monument. Let’s turn it on its side and let people walk all over it.”*

He anchored it in such a way with the BC courts — the law — at one end and the museum (Vancouver Art Gallery) — the arts — at the other.

In 1949, CACV’s exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery, *Designed for Living*, posed the question “Does your house fit you?” The show attracted over 14 thousand visitors and has been credited with marking the beginning of Canada’s West Coast Modernist style of art and architecture.



## #11 - COMMUNITY SPIRIT - RAFAEL MAYANI

*Community Spirit*  
Rafael Mayani  
2020

Stemming from the redevelopment of the old glass rotunda entrance to the Pacific Centre Mall, a call to local artists was made to create a mural and transform the space. The theme chosen for the project was “Transforming Communities for a Vibrant Tomorrow,” and Vancouver-based artist Rafael Mayani’s vision of depicting the city’s vibrant culture, regional events, and diverse population best captured the convictions of the underlying theme.

What are some of Vancouver’s cultural events that you can see in Mayani’s work?



## DESTINATION DOWNTOWN RIDE

### #12 - FINISH

You can take yourself back to the start of the route (Broadway City Hall Skytrain Station) by biking back over the Cambie Street bridge. Or by taking the Canada Line (Metro Vancouver’s Rapid Transit) from the Vancouver City Centre Station (Granville and Georgia).

Thanks to the Downtown Vancouver BIA for sponsoring this tour. Head over to their social media and website ([www.dtvancouver.ca](http://www.dtvancouver.ca)) to see the latest updates and events in the area.

We hope you had fun exploring with us, and don’t forget to tag us on your photos and videos on social media. We’d love to see highlights of your **#VanBiennale BIKennale!**